

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

Phone: 651-602-7900 Fax: 651-602-7914

Transmitted via Email

February 4, 2005

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-05-26

SUBJECT: LTP – EQIP – APPROVING APPLICATIONS

Purpose. To provide update on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) application approvals.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

We are continuing to hold the release of your EQIP county fund allocations, preventing field offices from approving applications.

National Headquarters (NHQ) indicates that a web service connection will be activated in February which will automatically check Farm Service Agency (FSA) records to confirm each applicant's eligibility for highly erodible, wetland, and adjusted gross income requirements. This feature should save personnel significant time since they will not need to manually check each individual and should also be a reliable method to determine eligibility, especially for multi-county and multi-state producers.

As such, we are asking offices to remain patient for approving applications and obligating contracts. Do as much background and planning work as you can on those that appear to be viable applications so they are ready to go when the funds are released.

Do keep the applications separated by sign-up periods. Indicate the sign-up period and the date of application in Protracts. Applications received by January 28, 2005, should first compete only against other first period sign-ups. Then, depending on fund availability, they may roll over to compete against second period sign-ups.

Questions should be directed to your ASTC(FO) or from the Area to Tim Koehler, Assistant State Conservationist.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: ASTC, FO, ARC, EQIP State Office Team